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MAY, 1976.

CAR PACING AT DARGO

An encounter with a UFO by two occupants of a car has been investigated by Dan Haylock, of Paynesville. The incident took place about 11 p.m. on Jan. 28, 1976, approximately three miles from Dargo in Gippsland, and the two witnesses were a young man and his cousin, a lady of middle age. Dan Haylock reports:

The witnesses to this sighting are farmers and at the time had a cucumber-gherkin paddock at the harvesting stage. After the pickers had finished each day, an irrigation pump was switched on and switched off again about 11 p.m.

On this particular evening (dark, moon well in last quarter), they observed what they thought was a shooter's spotlight ahead, just outside the Dargo township area. When their car drew near to it, they found that it was not a shooter's spotlight, but a similar light floating in midair alongside the road. As their car drew alongside it, it began to pace their vehicle - at about 45 m.p.h. This continued for a mile until after their car entered a deep cutting. It wasn't seen again for the next mile.

They had to leave the main road and take a gravel track which ran alongside a semi-cleared paddock on the side of a steep hill. As they started up the hill after crossing a little bridge, they saw the light coming across the paddock. It arrived at the top of the hill before them and waited above a gateway in the fence they were travelling alongside. The gateway is on the crest of the hill, and the roadway drops on down the other side past the gateway (not through it)

As their car drew alongside, not stopping, the light was the colour of a full moon, about two feet in diameter, and had two projections about a foot long on each side horizontally, and two more the same length projecting from beneath at an angle of 45 degrees from the vertical.

It gave forth now a terrific glare of light that lit up everything for several hundred feet around, illuminating the inside of the car as bright as a midsummer's day, as the woman expressed it. They kept the car moving, downhill now, with a 30 - 40 foot bank on their right and a deep drop on their left.

The object kept pace, but above the trees on the right hand bank, still illuminating everything, although at least a hundred feet or more away. The road winds to the left and then the right until it reaches a cleared paddock with a dirt track crossing it. They had dropped downhill about 300 feet while the light had maintained its altitude, and it was now high up, but giving out less light. It looked just like a full moon in the sky.

They crossed the paddock, the woman having opened the gate, and the man apparently caught glimpses of it through the door window. They continued through the next gate and down to the pump, which is near

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MAY, 1976.

DARGO CAR PACING (Continued)

some sheds, and the light stopped apparently above them, but at a height. As they turned the car around to come back it was evident that the light intended to follow them. This made them very frightened, and they lost no time in getting out through the gates to the road. They sped across the paddock at about 60 m.p.h., through the last gate and back up the winding hill, over the top and down to the little bridge before joining the highway. Here the flying light gave another bright flash illuminating everything as before. As they joined the highway they met another vehicle, and when its lights had passed there was no sign of the flying light which was following.

Ten days later the family noticed a very bright glow over the crest of the mountain near their house which was there for some time. Nothing further eventuated.

The woman said that the interior of the car felt hot and cold at times, but she set it down to fright. The woman's mother said that as soon as she saw their faces when they came home she knew that something had happened.

Weather conditions in the mountainous area of the sighting were clear night with no wind. The object appeared to be a sharply outlined solid, "brighter than a sodium street light". At its closest it was estimated to be 20 metres away at an altitude of 10 metres.

* * * * *

FLYING SAUCERS?

(Robinvale Sentinel, 26/2/76)

Reports of sighting of unidentified flying objects near the small Mallee settlement of Chinkapook are gaining momentum. A local farmer reports sighting a brilliantly lit object which appeared to land in a nearby field. The farmer says that the incident happened at an early hour in the morning, and when he attempted to overtake the object the ignition of his car failed, but when the lights on the object went out, his car was able to move normally again. (A subsequent mechanical check did not find any ignition fault). The farmer immediately called a neighbour who also saw the object, and an examination of the area revealed a circular patch of crop which had the appearance of being flattened by a heavy weight. Chinkapook residents are keeping a close watch and will report any further sightings.

(Thanks to member Jenny Schubert for supplying the clipping. Attempts to make contact with the witnesses have so far been without success).

UFO SIGHTED: UNNERVING EXPERIENCE FOR DUCK SHOOTER

(King Island News, 14/4/76)

A well known King Island duck shooter had an unnerving experience in the early hours on Saturday morning as he waited for dawn to break on a remote part of King Island. The King Island man, who wishes to remain anonymous, had driven to a wild and uninhabited part of the coastline near Whistler Point well before dawn in order to shoot ducks along the shore at first light.

He had been parked for more than 10 minutes, when, at about 5.30 a.m. - there was no sign of dawn - looking north easterly, he noticed what first appeared to be a beam of light such as could be emitted by a powerful torch or motor-bike headlight moving across the brow of a hill less than half a mile away, in a westerly direction. This puzzled the shooter, as he was familiar with the terrain, and he knew there was no track which would permit free movement in that area. Nor could he hear any sound of a motor. He also had the impression of some object moving behind and with the light.

As he watched, the movement turned in his direction, and he was amazed to see that the beam of light was much bigger and more "solid" than he had first thought. The source of the light appeared to be a cross-like object, about the size or smaller than a small plane. This was travelling nose-down through the air, following the terrain down the hill in the shooter's direction at a steady speed and maintaining a fixed altitude above the ground.

As it approached, the object emitted an inverted cone of bright orange light which shone groundwards at an angle in front of the object. This cone of light was defined by brighter shafts of light at its extremities (and front centre, and these were interspersed on each side by two broken shafts) of a different degree of brightness.

As this object continued to move in his direction, the shooter became convinced that it had been attracted by his car so he left the vehicle to watch its approach from the other side of the small hill on which he was parked. When closest to him, the cone of light appeared to be about 30 yards across at its base, and about 60 yards from its base to its source. The object continued its forward approach for about a minute or less, then it reversed its direction and moved back in a direct line from where it had come, disappearing over the skyline. Again the shooter was at no time conscious of hearing any noise which could be associated with the object.

Although somewhat unnerved, the shooter remained at the spot until dawn, but abandoned duck shooting for the day. To avoid publicity he had not intended to report what he had seen, but curiosity has got the better of him, and he is anxious to know if any other early riser on Saturday saw anything peculiar.

*The lines in brackets are misprinted out of place in the clipping, but seem to fit reasonably well in here - Ed.

PHOTOGRAPHS AT ELTHAM

The Society has seen two colour prints of an object photographed at Eltham by two young boys in September or October last year. A member of the Society first heard mention of them through a mutual acquaintance about four months after the incident. The witnesses, aged 12 and 14, were interviewed, but they were unable to locate the negatives.

On a Saturday about midday (exact date forgotten), the object was first seen from the front garden of their Eltham home. The younger lad, who owns the camera, went inside and brought it out, and a snap of the object was taken. The object momentarily disappeared from view, but it reappeared, and a second photograph was taken from the road in front of the house. The boys could not remember the incident well enough to give a detailed description of the object's manoeuvres. They heard no sound and saw no trail. The object was smaller than the moon in apparent size, and indications are that the sighting was not particularly close. They were unable to describe any structural detail - it just appeared to be a dark shape.

The two photos show what appears to be the same object - of the "classic" shape: disc with upper central dome - with the long axis inclined at about 30 degrees to the horizontal. Both images appear as a black silhouette with no other details visible. The camera used was a Hanimex "Loadmatic 110", a fixed focus, cassette loading camera, loaded with "Extraspool" colour negative film. Thus tampering with the negatives seems impossible. (continued)

ELTHAM PHOTOS (Continued)

No publicity was sought by the witnesses, and it was only by accident that the Society heard about the case at all. The boys exhibited no interest in the subject of UFOs, and the possibility of any hoax seems remote.

No natural explanation comes to mind, but such cannot be ruled out. Unfortunately, no further assessment of the case can be made without access to the negatives, and we are still waiting for them to become available.

MOVIE FILM COULD BE JET TRAILS

The Movie film reported in the November, 1975 Bulletin has been examined by the ACOS photographic consultant, and his report is as follows:

Opinion On Benalla Film taken 15 June, 1975

The film was examined by normal projection and frame by frame through a film editor, together with examination of selected frames through a microscope. The following comments are given by Frank Gillespie.

1. The objects are not camera caused ones but are objects in the sky.
2. They are not lens flares:- (a) They pass behind the trees visible as the background.
(b) If it were a reflection it would always move twice the angular displacement of the background for each camera movement. It does not.
3. They "look" like short lived condensation trails from a jet exhaust.
4. The two objects are oriented the same way and have the same appearance, thus suggesting the same cause for both.
5. With the copy available even with a microscope we cannot see any defined shape at either end of the objects shown on the film.
6. However, if it were an aircraft at aircraft height, say 30,000 feet, and taking the graininess of the film into consideration, we would assess that the plane size would be less than the grain size and hence wouldn't be visible.
7. Also, if it were a normal aluminium coloured aircraft against the blue sky, the contrast on a colour film would be too low to show up on the copy we have.

Tentative comment:

There is no evidence against the objects being condensation trails possibly of a jet aircraft.

EAST BURWOOD AGAIN...AND SURREY HILLS

The East Burwood observer who recorded several UFO observations last year (see November, 75 Bulletin) reports that moving lights have been seen again in the skies over the area. In a recent letter he writes:

Last Monday evening was a stifling, oppressively hot night with the threat of thunderstorms in the air. There were some extraordinary cloud formations overhead. I went indoors for the binoculars to study them; the time was 6.30 or a little later. When I came out of the house I lay down on the front lawn and used the glasses to look at the cloud immediately overhead - near enough to 90 degree elevation. Within seconds of focussing the glasses a UFO came into the line of vision. What happened was that it appeared from behind a cloud bank, travelled a short distance in a straight line for about two seconds, so slowly that there was no difficulty keeping it within the breadth of vision in the glasses without moving them much - perhaps a degree or two - then it stopped momentarily and reversed direction without turning and disappeared in exactly the same place in the cloud cover from which it appeared. The whole episode took about 4 or 5 seconds at most and it was just fortuitous that I had the glasses on the spot the UFO came from.

At no time did I see the UFO with the naked eye, but the object as seen through the 10x50 binoculars could be described as follows. The overall impression was of an intensely white sphere which appeared in the glasses as about the size of a football (soccer ball, that is). About a fifth of its diameter in from the perimeter was a broad dark band, circular in shape, and from within this there came a blue glow. In the time I observed it, the blue was not intermittent, but constant. Because I was viewing it through the glasses and only with a cloud background, an estimate of size is most difficult. I often view the stars and planets through the binoculars and telescope, and all I can say is that the object I saw on this occasion was many times greater in diameter in apparent size than I have ever seen a planet under magnification.

I called members of my family out to verify the sighting, but the object disappeared before they came out of the house. The actual time of the sighting would have been between 6.40 and 6.45 p.m. on Monday March 15th. I probably would not have reported this but for the peculiar circumstance which followed....

On the following evening, a colleague of mine, Mr. =====, phoned me at home. He and I had often had arguments about UFOs: his position was that of the sceptic who wasn't prepared to believe anything he hadn't seen for himself, and he could not accept even the possibility of extraterrestrial life. He phoned expressly to tell me he had seen a UFO the night before, over Surrey Hills. He is a fitness enthusiast, and was out for his regular evening run around the district when he saw it. His description to me was that the object was white, flashing a bright blue light, travelling at a height of between 500 to 1000 feet above ground (but he emphasised this was a crude estimate) at a speed in excess of 1000 m.p.h!

I was impressed by ====='s report, especially because he volunteered it to me and because he had hitherto been so sceptical.... I was also impressed because it tended to offer confirmation of my sighting only a few hours earlier only a few miles to the east, as many of the characteristics were the same.

This sighting was important to me because it was the first for several months despite prolonged watching. My family and I took more than a normal interest in sky watch sessions throughout the week as a consequence. The results were exceptional. On Wednesday evening there was a report of an expected rocket reentry visible from Melbourne at about 7.30 p.m. My neighbour's family were awaiting it and one of their children claimed to have seen a streak in the sky at the scheduled time. About a minute or so after 7.30 my wife and I and three children (two of whom are teenagers) saw a yellow UFO moving slowly through the sky for about 4 minutes before it disappeared in a heavy mist near the Dandenongs. Some features we noticed were: It was first seen in the south, travelling generally in a northerly direction, tending NNE in a gradual curve. It was travelling "about satellite height" and at about half the speed a commercial aircraft would travel. The light was constant, bright and yellowish. After a couple of minutes it changed direction by tightening its curve and swinging much more easterly. Its speed appeared constant up until its disappearance in heavy mist near the Dandenong Ranges. The date was 17th March.

(Continued)

EAST BURWOOD (Continued)

About 7.30 p.m. on Friday 19th March, my eldest daughter was maintaining a sole sky watch in the garden when she saw a bright light in the vicinity of Betelgeuse in Orion, travelling easterly; it disappeared completely a few degrees of arc away near Procyon a few moments later. I joined her immediately and about two minutes later saw a similar phenomenon, with the help of binoculars this time. It again was first noticed in Orion, travelling "about satellite height" in an easterly direction. It appeared to be about the size and brightness of a star, but with variable light intensity. Through the binoculars I was able to see it suddenly give an intense flash of white light and then stop moving about two thirds of the distance from Orion to Procyon. There was no cloud cover in the vicinity at the time. Despite another hour or so of watching the area, there was no further movement visible....

In a report from the Surrey Hills witness, the following information was given:

The object was seen for about 5 seconds at midnight in a north easterly direction, and almost directly overhead. The object was estimated to be at an altitude of about 2000 feet, and appeared as a sphere or disc full-on of an apparent size more than half as large as the moon. It was brighter than the moon, a sharply outlined object with a white incandescent glow remaining white around the rim while alternating to pale blue at the centre at intervals of half to one second. The object moved steadily in a straight line at a speed estimated to be at or exceeding the speed of sound. Although there was no cloud near the sighting area, the light went out leaving nothing visible.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS FOR 1975

The Centre for UFO Studies - Australian Coordination Section, located in Gosford, N.S.W., has been operating for more than a year now, with member organisations or individuals from all states except Northern Territory. This means that UFO information here is being collected and coordinated on an Australia-wide basis. ACOS has compiled a statistical report for the year 1975, with the cooperation of the following member organisations:

Queensland UFO Research Bureau - Brisbane.
Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre - Hobart.
Messrs. W. Tarplee and D. Owen - Canberra.
UFO Investigation Centre - Sydney.
UFO Research Inc. - Adelaide.
UFO Research Central Coast - Gosford.
UFO Research W.A. - Perth.
Victorian UFO Research Society - Melbourne.

The reports show an unusually high percentage (24.2) of unidentifieds. Together with a further 4.8% of possible unidentifieds, and 5.9% still under investigation, the total could be as high as 34.9%. The majority of sightings occurred either when the witness was alone or with one other person. The slight excess of two-witness cases speaks in favour of the experience being real and objective, rather than psychological, in nature.

Summary of the 1975 Unidentifieds

The majority of the reports were of nocturnal lights and came from males, especially those in the 16-20 year age group. The greatest number of sightings were made between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight, with Friday producing the largest proportion of reports and Tuesday the least. Monthly, the highest activity seems to have occurred in March, May and August, with the least in January, February and December. The long summer twilight is a possible explanation for this variation. Secondary peaks during the months revealed no correlation with lunar phases and showed no avoidance of the full moon. Evidently, such variations are not the result of intensity of sky illumination.

For the year there were 355 sightings reported for the whole of Australia (No information available for N.T.). Of these, 231 were identified (about 65%). 38 were indeterminate for various reasons, such as not enough information available, or not investigated. The remaining unidentified cases amount to 86.

The distribution of the unidentified cases among the states was as follows: W.A. - 6; V - 9; Q - 9; S.A. - 12; N.S.W. - 18; Tas - 32.

The nine cases from Victoria were all of the "nocturnal light" type, which are considered as the least important of the six categories used by CUFOs. There were 32 cases reported, but the remainder were capable of a normal explanation even if a definite identification was not actually made. In these cases, not enough information is given, or the details cannot be considered strange enough to label them as unidentified.

INVESTIGATING THE UFO - ABC SPECIAL

(From a report by Harry Griesberg)

The ABC radio network presented a special two hour program on UFOs on Wednesday, March 24th. The show went live between 8 and 10 p.m. throughout Australia on the following stations: Sydney 2FC, Newcastle 2NA, Brisbane 4QG, Melbourne 3AR, Hobart 7ZL, Canberra 2CY, Adelaide 5CL and Perth 6WN. The show presented two good taped interviews, one with Phillip Klass, and the other with Professor Carl Sagan. By a special link-up with a station in Las Cruces in New Mexico, Professor Hynek was heard live throughout the entire program. Besides this, listeners were invited to phone in and relate their experiences or comments, which led to the ABC switchboard in Sydney becoming jammed, and therefore presented several technical difficulties, which led to a number of calls not coming through. In the Sydney studio were Harry Griesberg of ACOS and Dr. Don Herbison-Evans, scientific consultant.

Although the program centred mainly around the extraterrestrial theory, it did serve quite an important purpose, and that is to make people aware of the existence of UFO organisations in Australia. To date, one week after the program, ACOS is receiving numerous letters from all over Australia, either requesting information, or to report sightings, both new and old....

....There were a number of items I wanted to bring up during the show; among them, the Centre's definition of a UFO, investigation procedure, how the Australian UFO organisations operate, the RAAF's attitude towards the subject, etc. Unfortunately, time did fly, and before we knew it, the show was over. To some people, therefore, it seemed that we were only collecting reports, and pushing the extraterrestrial theory. However, from a public relations angle, the show was extremely good. There is a possibility that towards the end of the year, another show might be presented, focussing on investigation of the phenomenon. We have had discussions with several scientists who were listening to the program, with a view to them possibly becoming scientific advisers to the ACOS organisations.

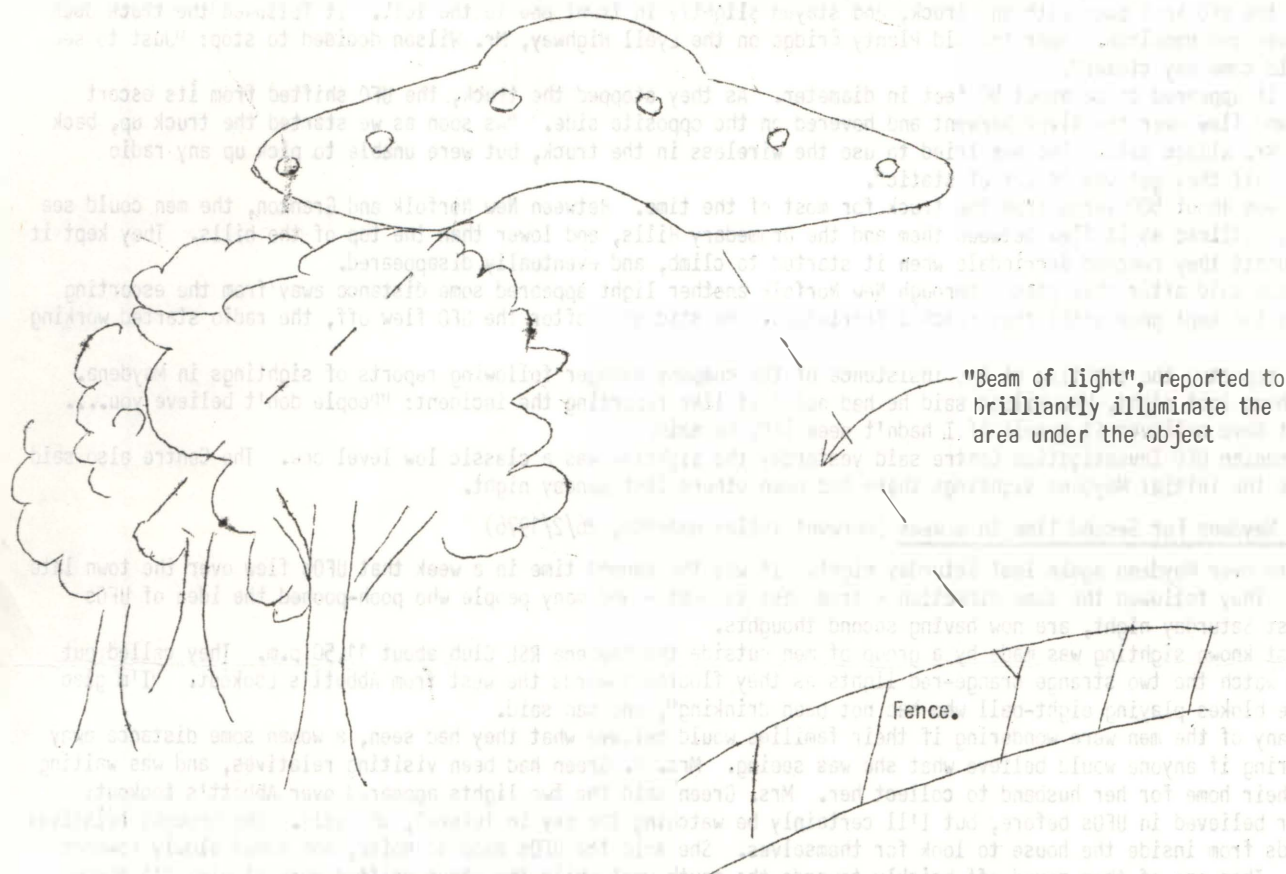
Before and after the program, I also had discussions with Professor Hynek via the hookup, and he told me to pass on to our member organisations that he was extremely pleased with the way ACOS was operating in Australia, and the cooperation which the groups who participate are giving to the Centre.... I further enquired as to whether Professor Hynek will be in Australia to observe the total lunar eclipse in October in Mt. Gambier, S.A., which coincides with our second Australian conference, but unfortunately I have to disappoint everyone, as he will be unable to be here.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA JULY 1965

By Les Bristol

This sighting took place on a clear night over 10 years ago, but was not reported until Mrs. Glenys Keevins responded to the 3AR radio program March 24.

Mrs. Keevins was driving with a friend at midnight, 25/26 July, on a little used road 9 miles east of Donnybrook, W.A. On rounding a corner they came upon an object hovering just above the treetops a few hundred feet from the roadway at an estimated height of 50 feet. Mrs. Keevins described the object as being disc-shaped with a diameter of about 50 feet. It had a bright white light emanating from the underside and a series of 'portholes' around the rim. The object, which was seen against a background of hills and trees, remained quite steady until Mrs. Keevins arrived at the scene. The beam of light (see sketch below) went through a number of colour changes to a bright blue. With that the object shot straight up and was out of sight in three or four seconds. Mrs. Keevins did not report any difficulties with her car, and though she had slowed down, did not stop.



Tracing taken from the witness's sketch.

VUFORS MEMBER VISITS TUFOIC

In January, Secretary Ray Fischer and myself had the pleasure of visiting Tasmania on a hiking trip. Unfortunately, Ray had to return to Melbourne immediately after finishing the hike. However, I was able to stay in Hobart for a few days, and after much effort, I managed to contact Paul Jackson, Correspondence Officer for the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre. He very kindly arranged for a meeting with some of the TUFOIC committee members.

The gathering was at the home of the President, Jeanette Bigwood, and her husband, John, with Paul Jackson and the Secretary, Keith Roberts also in attendance. I was most impressed with TUFOIC's hospitality and efficiency; especially the way they seem to have all official bodies, not to mention the public, willing to cooperate fully with them. (A completely different situation to that which operates in this state, I might add).

This is quite evident from the fact that there is no TUFOIC phone number as such in the book, which is why I had so much difficulty getting in touch with them. Contact is made through the personal phone numbers of the President and Secretary, yet they seem to have no trouble receiving reports, for these numbers are apparently well known to the general public. In fact, there were two calls while I was present at the Bigwood house; one a sighting report, and the other an enquiry from a press reporter.

- Michael McNamara.

WOMAN "BUZZED" BY SHAFT OF LIGHT (South Western Times, Bunbury, WA, 24/2/1976)

An Eaton housewife, who was walking home at 2 O'clock in the morning recently, was "buzzed" by a strange shaft of very bright light. The woman, who did not want her name published, told a member of the Bunbury branch of the Unexplained Phenomena Investigation Bureau, Mr. Eddy Dorant, that the light hovered above her for about one minute.

"She said that the light had a sort of distracting effect on her", he said. The woman had lived in the area for the last 20 years and "was not affected by liquor or anything else at the time", he said. The light had hovered in front and above her at an angle of about 60 degrees. She did not see any object related to the light...

The sighting is the first to be reported to the UPIB in Bunbury for almost 12 months. In March last year an unnamed Dardanup farmer reported seeing a bright light and the outlines of a strange type of vehicle on his property.

Readers are reminded that VUFORS misses out on many sightings. Members can assist by alerting us to any press items, especially from the smaller, local papers. Send us the clipping, or copy thereof, naming the paper and date. If you know of a sighting that has not been reported, let us know about it.

TASMANIA AGAIN

As reported in an earlier Bulletin, 1974 was a very active year for UFOs in Tasmania. Strong activity continued throughout 1975, with the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre recording 32 unexplained cases, the largest number of any state for the year. The details are published in TUFOIC's 1976 Annual Report, now available from TUFOIC, 366 Huon Rd., South Hobart, Tas., 7000. 1976 brings yet more sightings, according to the latest supply of press items supplied by Paul Jackson of TUFOIC.

UFO Escorts Truck on Trip Through Valley (Derwent Valley Gazette, 26/2/1976)

Two truck drivers had a hair raising experience on February 17 when a UFO escorted them from Nive Hill, Wayatinah, to Berriedale. The men were taking a truckload of abalone from Strahan to Dover. One of them, Mr. Ron Wilson, of Midway Point, is a maintenance engineer with Victorian Canning Co. Industries Pty. Ltd. He was driving when he first saw the UFO: "I was coming down Nive Hill, and it looked to be over Black Bobs", he said.

The truck, a low-gear International, was buzzed during the three hours it took to get from Wayatinah to Berriedale. The men said the UFO had a brilliant yellow-white light in the shape of a dome, and underneath it they could make out what appeared to be the shape of a body: "It looked something like a sausage bent down at each end", Mr. Wilson said.

He said the UFO kept pace with the truck, and stayed slightly in front and to the left. It followed the truck down through Ouse and Hamilton. Near the old Plenty Bridge on the Lyell Highway, Mr. Wilson decided to stop: "Just to see if it would come any closer".

He said it appeared to be about 50 feet in diameter. As they stopped the truck, the UFO shifted from its escort position and flew over the River Derwent and hovered on the opposite side. "As soon as we started the truck up, back it came", Mr. Wilson said. The men tried to use the wireless in the truck, but were unable to pick up any radio stations. All they got was "a lot of static".

The UFO was about 600 yards from the truck for most of the time. Between New Norfolk and Granton, the men could see it clearly outlined as it flew between them and the Dromedary Hills, and lower than the top of the hills. They kept it in sight until they reached Berriedale when it started to climb, and eventually disappeared.

Mr. Wilson said after they passed through New Norfolk another light appeared some distance away from the escorting UFO. This too kept pace until they reached Berriedale. He said soon after the UFO flew off, the radio started working normally.

The men reported the sighting at the insistence of the company manager following reports of sightings in Maydena. From his home last night, Mr. Wilson said he had not felt like reporting the incident: "People don't believe you.... I wouldn't have believed it myself if I hadn't seen it", he said.

The Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre said yesterday the sighting was a classic low level one. The Centre also said that since the initial Maydena sightings there had been others last Sunday night.

UFOs Over Maydena For Second Time in a Week (Derwent Valley Gazette, 26/2/1976)

UFOs were over Maydena again last Saturday night. It was the second time in a week that UFOs flew over the town late at night. They followed the same direction - from east to west - and many people who pooh-poohed the idea of UFOs before last Saturday night, are now having second thoughts.

The first known sighting was made by a group of men outside the Maydena RSL Club about 11.50 p.m. They called out others to watch the two strange orange-red lights as they floated towards the west from Abbott's Lookout. "I'm glad there some blokes playing eight-ball who had not been drinking", one man said.

While many of the men were wondering if their families would believe what they had seen, a woman some distance away was wondering if anyone would believe what she was seeing. Mrs. P. Green had been visiting relatives, and was waiting outside their home for her husband to collect her. Mrs. Green said the two lights appeared over Abbott's Lookout: "I'd never believed in UFOs before, but I'll certainly be watching the sky in future", she said. She brought relatives and friends from inside the house to look for themselves. She said the UFOs made no noise, and moved slowly towards the west. Then one of them moved off briskly towards the south west while the other drifted more slowly: "It seemed to stay in one place for quite a time, and then it faded out and disappeared", she said.

Mrs. Green said that at one stage she could make out the UFOs below the line of hills. "I certainly won't be laughing at UFO reports in the future", she said. Mrs. Green takes weather readings for the Weather Bureau at weekends and on holidays, and is conversant with reading sky conditions....

....UFO investigators checked as to whether balloons could have been released from Abbott's Lookout. On top of the lookout is a TV relay station, and aerials for two-way radio systems. Const. M. Lowery of Maydena said it would have been impossible for anybody to get through the locked ANM Ltd. gate to drive the seven miles along a track to the top of the lookout. "I'm sure there is nobody here keen enough to walk the distance on the chance of sparking off a hoax UFO report", he said. Const. Lowery confirmed that a number of UFO sightings had been made in the Maydena area for some time. Mrs. Lowery herself had seen a number of UFOs at night, he said.

The sightings made on Saturday night were similar to those made the previous Tuesday when three young Maydena men saw two mysterious lights flying the same route. The three, Wayne Thorpe, Paul Donoghue, and Tim Jeffries, were applauded by the UFOIC for taking the trouble to put through three calls to Hobart from a call box following their sightings at 10.15 p.m. The three said they saw one of the UFOs drop towards the ground about two miles from Maydena. In daylight the next day, they tried to find the spot, but said the brush was too thick for them to get into the area for a complete search. While the one UFO dropped down, the other flew straight up into the night sky and disappeared.

Maydena UFOs Baffle Experts (Derwent Valley Gazette, 4/3/1976)

UFOs continued their baffling flights over Maydena last week. After making about six appearances between Feb. 17 and last Wednesday, the town was ready for the Thursday night fly-past. Const. Mike Lowery of Maydena said locals arranged with one man to ring the church bell if any UFOs were sighted. The wait was not in vain. At 10.50 p.m., two UFOs were seen approaching the town from the east. The church bell was rung, and people poured out of houses into the main road and side streets.

The TUFOIC said there was no natural explanation for the sightings. No aircraft were in the vicinity, they were certainly not stars that were seen; and hoax balloon possibilities were ruled out. The wind was blowing the opposite way. Investigators said there was little doubt that the orange-yellow, or amber lights, belonged to space ships* (*Paul Jackson reports that this was not stated by any of the TUFOIC investigators)

They flew right over the town, and residents watched them for a good 12 minutes. People in better vantage points outside the town watched them for longer than that. The flight pattern of the UFOs was said to be as steady as a satellite's. As they moved to the west, one of the UFOs did a 90 degree turn, and flew off towards the direction of Scott's Peak. Investigators said one sighting was made on Feb. 17, and others on Feb. 21, and each night until Feb. 26. The times the UFOs appeared varied from 10.15 p.m. to 11.55 p.m., and hundreds of people saw them. Some watched through binoculars and telescopes, and one man claimed that when he looked at one of the lights it took on the appearance of two lights - one at each end of a "cage like structure".

(Continued)

TASMANIA (Continued)

Since publication of the sightings, a number of people have volunteered information on other sightings to TUFOIC's head investigator and President, Mr. Keith Roberts. Mr. Roberts said many people were reluctant to tell of what they had seen because of ridicule by others. However, he said, it had been found that most ridicule came from people who had not seen a UFO, and who generally had "closed minds". He urged people to report sightings as quickly as possible.

Mr. Roberts regarded as a "good strong sighting" one made by HEC linesmen Messrs. Brian Woolley and L. Oakley on Feb. 12. The men were working on a power line at 5.10 a.m. It was quite dark when Mr. Woolley noticed a UFO with powerful red and green-blue lights flying into the Magra area. It hovered at about hilltop height over the Methodist Church. Mr. Woolley said it was "definitely saucer-shaped, and was about 40 feet in diameter".

He watched it fly away, and then it returned, and by this time he had been joined by Mr. Oakley, who confirmed the sighting. The UFO was stationary for about 8 minutes before it flew off, this time towards Tarrareah. The lights on the UFO were intense, and pulsed: "They were so bright you could see them reflecting off the UFO's shiny metallic surface", Mr. Woolley said. At one stage the men flashed their powerful spotlight at the UFO, and soon after, it flew off. Mr. Woolley said its speed was incredible: "From when it started moving off to when it disappeared as a pinpoint of light in the distance, it took only two seconds", he said.

GIRL SEES LIGHT IN THE SKY
(Lithgow Mercury, 11/3/1976)

A young woman from Windsor, Miss Sue Gray, was most distressed on Sunday night when she arrived at the Oberon Police Station. It was about 8.20 p.m. and she had just travelled 30 miles along the Burruga to Oberon road with an unidentified flying object following her. She described the object as a reddish colour which gave off a golden glow about two or five miles away from her on the right of her car. The light kept flashing on and off, and when she was about two miles out of Oberon it moved over to the left of her car, now having a goldish colour and giving off a red light. Just before she reached Oberon the light disappeared. Miss Gray was very upset about the experience, although the police received no other reports of UFO sightings.

UNUSUAL SOUNDS

1. UFO Research Inc (SA) Newsletter No. 18 reports on an event on Dec. 16, 1975:

The lady in question was awake and walking around inside her house at Paradise at 3.45 a.m. when she heard a noise. She described it as a "winding up", "whirling" or "generator" type of sound. She stressed that it seemed like something overhead "building up power". It was heard for about a ½ minute at this stage.

While this sound was going on she looked out through the window and saw a flashing red light which seemed to illuminate a solid, silver coloured mass underneath it and to the left of the red light. The silver area was noticed only when the beam from the red light illuminated this area. The sound definitely appeared to be coming from this object. Having watched it for some ½ minute, the lady went to put on her glasses, as she is short sighted. By the time she returned the object was receding or diminishing in size into the west, where it was finally lost to sight. The noise died with the departure of the object.

2. QUFORB Newsletter No. 61 reports on an unusual experience at Everton Park, Brisbane, at 11.30 p.m. on March 28, 76:

Mr. and Mrs. Coman live in a short street consisting of approximately twelve houses on each side of the street, the street is not a through road and both ends of the street finish abruptly. Mrs. Coman said that the noise that woke her came from a southerly direction, and due to the short length of the street she was waiting for the vehicle (which she thought was making the noise) to brake hard when it arrived at the dead end of the street, but no braking noise was heard. She was settling back to sleep when five minutes later her bedroom suddenly became illuminated with red light and together with the light she heard the noise she described as a powerful engine noise coming from a northerly direction, and then realised that the noise was directly above the house, and at the same time she said that an intense dry heat filled the bedroom. At this point she woke her husband who woke in time to hear a "whooshing" noise go over the house. Then they moved to the bedroom window but could see nothing outside the house or in the sky. After this Mrs. Coman said she experienced a cold sensation and came up in "goose-bumps".

On further questioning, more events came to light. The Comans both agreed that the house shook and vibrated during the experience, and Mrs. Coman commented that she found the heat unbearable, and that it would have been, probably, more unbearable had they had a tin roof instead of tiles. A large area of overgrown grass and swamp lies at the back of the house and shortly after the event a large flock of birds rose from the area which they thought very unusual considering the time of the night.....

Credit: UFO Research Inc., 60 Skyline Drive, Flagstaff Hill, S.A., 5159.

Queensland UFO Research Bureau, P.O. Box 111, North Quay, Brisbane, Q. 4000.

ADAMSTOWN "LANDING" A HOAX

The February Bulletin reprinted an item from the Newcastle Sun, which reported the alleged "landing" of a UFO at Adamstown, N.S.W. The incident was investigated by members of UFO Research Central Coast and Sydney UFOIC, who took soil samples from the site. ACOS reports that the samples were examined by Dr. G. Stevens, ACOS consultant, and the results were as follows:

This report describes the analysis of samples from the alleged landing site described in the Newcastle Sun on 8th Jan., 1976 and the Sydney Mirror on 9th Jan., 1976. The samples, collected by UFO Research Central Coast, are described in Table 1.

This work has positively identified the white material as flour. The acid appears to be a mixture of hydrochloric and sulphuric acids, with a small amount of nitric, containing dissolved zinc (zinc chloride is a common soldering flux). The acids were strong enough to kill the normal microorganisms in the soil but some bacterial spores survived.

The alleged landing site was fabricated with easily available materials.

(A copy of this report is available from UFO Research - Central Coast, 3 Haynes St., Wyoming, N.S.W. 2250)

PRIVATELY PUBLISHED AMERICAN BOOK

The illustrated book, "QUARTER CENTURY STUDIES OF UFOS IN FLORIDA, NORTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE", by George D. Fawcett, can be obtained directly from the author at P.O. Box 557, Maiden, North Carolina, U.S.A. 28650. Price to Australian purchasers, \$5.00, which includes postage and packaging.

"A long look and serious study of UFOS in three states by a veteran of 30 years of civilian UFO research and investigation. The internationally known Mount Airy, N.C. author shares many of his personal fascinating findings concerning the UFO enigma from these areas and others from 1944 thru 1974".

"SHADOWY FIGURES IN PLEXIGLASS DOME"

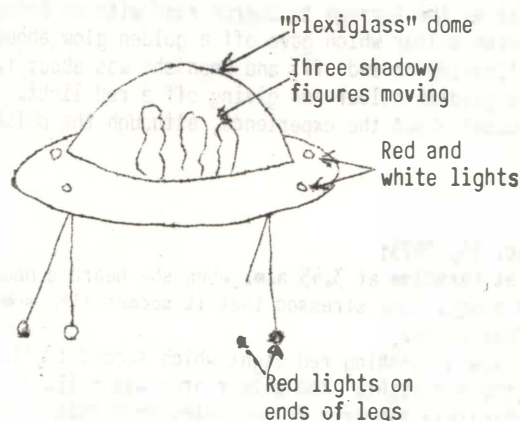
Brookby, Auckland, (NZ) 8th Jan., 1975, 11.30 p.m.:

Mr. Dale Norton and Miss Sheryl Ricard, returning from a flounder fishing trip, were about half a mile from Brookby on the Alfriston Road when Sheryl saw a round, brightly lit globe in the sky in front of them. It was lost from view behind some trees on a bend in the road. As they passed the trees, the object came closer, with all its lights blazing. Dale wasn't taking much notice of it and was saying it was just a plane. The object then moved over the car and then over a paddock along the side of the road. By this time Dale had slowed the car considerably to get a better view.

Sheryl said that the object was circular with a bright white dome in the middle and four lights around its rim, two red, two white, with four legs protruding from underneath it and a red light on the end of each leg. These lights were smaller than those around the rim. The dome appeared like clear plexi-glass. Inside the craft she said she could see three dark shadowy figures moving around. The object by this time had moved in closer and was pacing the car just above the power lines along the right hand side of the road. The object was at this time about 24 feet from the car.

Sheryl panicked when Dale said he was going to stop the car for a better look, so Dale turned into the driveway of the first house they encountered. Dale turned the engine off and a soft humming sound could be heard. The object hovered nearby for a few seconds, then shot off over the hills, before the householder whose driveway they had turned into came out to see who it was. The object was about the size of an average car.

I interviewed the two witnesses separately from each other, and took drawings from both of them, and was able to get an excellent comparison without the risk of borrowing from each other's memories.



Tracing of Sheryl Ricard's sketch.

Dale's story was similar to Sheryl's, but he was only in a position to glimpse the object whilst he took his attention away from his driving. Dale confirmed seeing three shadowy objects inside the craft, but couldn't say if they were moving or not. He also said he could see the four red lights below the craft, but could not say if they were suspended on legs or not. His drawing differs from that of Sheryl's in as much as Dale details the dome section of the object and not the rim, legs, or rim lights. Seeing as he was driving and all this was over in the time it takes to cover a half mile of road, I am not surprised that his drawing is incomplete. Sheryl had the ringside seat and therefore the best observation opportunity.

Dale's mother, a registered nurse, states that Sheryl arrived home in a state of visible shock and had tranquilisers administered to calm her. The weather conditions were fine, clear night, no wind.

The terrain is alongside a shallow valley with low hills around it. An area of large, mainly cleared paddocks.

(Reprinted from "N.Z. Spaceview" No. 66, Journal of New Zealand Scientific Space Research, 67 Walworth Ave., Pakuranga, Auckland, N.Z.)

BROWNSTOWN YOUTH SEES, PHOTOGRAPHS FLYING OBJECT

There are times when a man has difficulty in getting other people to look at what he has seen, especially if he is a young man and what he has seen is an unidentified flying object. They just don't get the picture - and they won't look at your pictures either. At least that is the trouble 14 year old David Mahon or rural Brownstown has been experiencing lately.

On the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 5, David was tramping in a wooded area on his father's farm three miles south of Brownstown with a camera, taking pictures of whatever caught his fancy. A sound he describes as "like an electric motor" caught his attention and there it was. "It was black and shaped like a saucer", David says. "And it had a sort of glowing haze around its edges. It came from the southeast toward me and then hovered maybe 1500 feet away and some distance in the air. I would say it was about 100 feet in diameter and had a dome on top of it; and there were circular like markings on its bottom that looked like they were built as a part of the machine."

From the time he first saw it until it left in a westerly direction, David snapped pictures of the contraption. Alone with no other witnesses to the event, he estimates it was in the area for about 45 seconds before leaving at a high rate of speed. He noticed no markings or signs of life about the object.

"I was scared", he says. "I could hardly get my breath. And this part of it may be a dream, but I think I was in it. I don't know how to describe this part, but it seemed like levitation, do you know what I mean? Like I was drawn to it and up inside it several feet off the ground. I don't know how far. I was in a room, maybe five feet in diameter with walls that looked like brushed aluminium. And on the wall were things that looked like camera lenses with a glow that came and went. It seems like I was in there for about 25 seconds. I just really don't know, but in my own mind I am convinced I was in there, and I could not move".

David, an eighth grade student at Brownstown Junior High School, discussed his experience with neighbours, family members and classmates. He indicates his story was greeted with disbelief by many but was taken seriously by others. He did not report the occurrence to authorities until last Wednesday when he received copies of the pictures back from the company which developed the film. Upon receiving the photographs he said he contacted the Federal Aviation Administration in St. Louis. The FAA showed no interest, and referred him to Scott Air Force Base in Belleville. A telephone operator there told him to contact Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, he said, and SIU also showed no interest. His final call was to Illinois State Police HQ in Watson. An officer there questioned him about the report and said the proper authorities would be notified and would then contact David for his information. By Saturday, no one had called, and he brought his pictures to the Leader-Union office.

While relating his story here, he was told by Jim Michels, one of our reporters, to contact a professor at Northwestern University in Evanston who collects data on UFO sightings.

And things may be looking up. In a telephone conversation Sunday, the youth said he had talked with Dr. Allen Hynek at the university. The professor questioned young Mahon, told him to send copies of the photographs and has indicated he will talk further with him if the photos prove to have value.

(Vandalia, Ill. Leader-Union, 4/2/1975)

BACK COPIES OF BULLETIN

Limited supplies of back issues of the Bulletin are still in stock: Jun 1974.....20¢ each
Feb. 1975; May 1975; Aug. 1975; Nov. 1975; Feb. 197640¢ each.

These are available to members only . Please include 30¢ to cover postage.

HE SAW UFO 100 YARDS AWAY

An Akron repairman has checked in with yet another account of something strange in the sky - this one delta-shaped and sporting three orange lights. Mike Sauers, who works for M & L Supply Co., said Wednesday he and a coworker spotted the object on Ohio 59 just east of Ravenna about 9.30 p.m. Tuesday.

"There was no sound, no engine noise, no engine flames, no after-burner of any kind", he said. "It moved pretty fast. It built up speed and drifted away." He said the object was about 40 yards long and he watched it from a distance of 100 yards. Farther down the road, the two saw two other objects in the sky. "They were the size of small airplanes", he said. "They made a light buzzing sound, but no engine sound".

Sauers, who lives in Cleveland, said he didn't tell anyone about the sightings until after he got home Tuesday night and learned from his wife that the radio had other reports of UFOs. Sauers' account was among 50 collected by an Akron UFO club in the last two days. Among the more detailed reports was one turned in by a Madison policeman. Madison is in Lake County near Lake Erie.

Ptl. Zachary Space said he and sheriff's deputies watched two objects dart through the sky for about 20 minutes about 3.30 a.m. Tuesday. Space said the objects glowed with a white light at times, while at other moments were "reddish and green". Persons peering at the objects through binoculars said it appeared triangular, Space added.

Space said he saw two objects several miles apart, manoeuvring in the sky. One of the objects, "about the size of a house", hovered over power lines a half mile from Space. Then it suddenly shot upward "like a flare" out of sight, he said. The object repeated the procedure several times. "I've seen helicopters, planes with revolving wings that could change direction", said Space, a former sergeant in the Air Force. "None of them could just fly out of sight like that, like they were shot". Space said a Lake County Sheriff's deputy aimed his cruiser's spotlight at the object. "It started moving over toward us. We cut that light out real fast. We got a chill down our backs. We all laughed, you know, just to keep from running over each other. We decided just to stand back and watch".

Space said one man told him he probably had seen lightning drift across the sky and become attracted to the power lines. Another said "lake gas" had drifted into the field. Another told Space he had seen Venus and Jupiter. "I told him I figured Venus circled around like the Earth did", he chuckled. "I didn't think it had the habit of hovering around power lines. Look, I had six other people that saw the same thing I saw. I'm not saying I saw a flying saucer.. I don't know what I saw. It was light".

Sauers said he made a delivery in Madison at about 11 a.m. Tuesday, but he insisted he had not heard or read anything about a UFO sighting. "I was driving a truck all day. I didn't know people were seeing these things until I got home and my wife told me (about radio reports of the sightings)", he said. Despite the many UFO reports, "nothing unusual" was seen from Akron-Canton Airport's control tower, according to air traffic supervisor Jim Probst....

(Akron, Ohio, Beacon Journal, 13/11/1975)

ASTRONAUTS SPOTTED UFOS

(Perth Sunday Times, 7/3/1976)

New York, Sat. - Two US astronauts graphically describe seeing UFOs, on a new long-playing record released this month. Both claim photographs of the mysterious objects apparently vanished once they got into official hands. Astronauts Gen. James McDivitt and Col. Gordon Cooper tell their stories on a record produced by UFO investigator E. Lee Spiegel called "UFOs: The Credibility Factor". It is distributed by Columbia.

McDivitt gives a detailed account of watching and photographing a UFO which flew alongside his Gemini IV spacecraft in June, 1965. McDivitt says on the record: "I have never been able to identify it, and I don't think anyone ever will. As it (the Gemini capsule) was rotating around, I noticed something out in front that was a white cylindrical shape with a white pole sticking out of one corner of it. I couldn't tell how close it was and I couldn't tell what the size was - depth perception is not very good unless you know what the size of the object is that you're looking at. I thought I might run into it, so I turned on the flight control system. Two cameras were floating in the spacecraft. I grabbed one of them and took a picture. I let go of it. Then I grabbed the other one and took a picture. I never did find out what it was, and nobody else ever did, either. They checked NORAD records to see what they had up on radar and there wasn't anything within very close range of us".

McDivitt says the films he took were sent to Houston. When the published pictures did not show the object, he went to Houston and looked through all the frames. "And there wasn't anything in there like what I had seen!", he said.

Cooper says he sighted a group of strange objects while stationed with a fighter group in Germany before he joined NASA. Cooper says the objects appeared for three days. They flew strange patterns, like fighter formations, except that sometimes they would almost stop, or change direction suddenly in a right 90 degree turn. Cooper says almost every pilot on the base flew as high as their planes would take them "still trying to spot these strange devices flying overhead, and we never could get close enough really to pin them down. But they were round in shape and very metallic looking".

UFO "THINK TANK"

From April 30 to May 2, the Centre for UFO Studies in the United States held a scientific conference on the state of UFO research. This conference was a serious "think tank", and was therefore not advertised in advance....A total of 133 people from all over the world were invited, and expected were only about a quarter of these, therefore allowing a nice informal serious working group.... ACOS was also invited to attend, but owing to the distance involved, we were unable to be there. From a letter to ACOS from Dr. Hynek:

"The number and intensity of favourable comments was most encouraging; the general consensus was that a 'think tank' type of meeting is long overdue and is in fact what the Centre should be doing - not emphasising social and political aspects..."

ACOS will be informed as to the outcome of the conference.

(ACOS report)

Moscow Radio, Dec. 29, 1953:

"To fan war hysteria, the aggressive forces stop at nothing, including the inventions about flying saucers. The mythical saucers take off from the pages of the bourgeois Press every time the ruling circles of this or that capitalist country try to foist upon their people a new burden of military expenditure".

Professor F. Zigel, assistant professor at the Moscow Aviation Institute, 1967:

"Quite a number of UFOs have been observed over the USSR, and it is noteworthy that the UFO forms observed here fit into the classification of these objects accepted in the West, in the USA in particular. It is safe to claim that the UFO problem has assumed a global character and therefore calls for global research. International scientific cooperation in the solution of this problem would long ago have become a reality, had not sensationalism and irresponsible anti-scientific assertions about 'flying saucers' interfered with it".

ALERT IN THE BLACK COUNTRY
(Continued from previous issue)

10. Jumet Living at 600 metres from the above-mentioned witness, Mr. M.B. (66 years old) was at that time in bed, but had not yet fallen asleep, when he heard "a noise like a hundred bees altogether". He woke up his wife and both of them quickly went to the window which they then opened. The humming was jerky and of a rhythm of two periods per second. It was heard for 20 seconds or thereabouts.

11. Jumet This sound was also heard by a group of three people who, following a Communion, were late in the night joyously celebrating this event. Mrs. C.J. and F.P., along with Mr. R.J. as ear-witnesses, gave certain details which merit to be given:

Mrs. C.J.: "We were just about to step outside when I heard a kind of hooting resembling that of when children play 'cowboys and indians', but it was much louder. Although I had the impression of being fixed on the spot for a short moment, I wasn't the least bit scared. Then all the noise ended".

Mrs. F.P.: "I was about to leave when to my surprise this noise appeared to come from everywhere. I was under the sensation of being glued to the ground up until the time when the clamour diminished. I have never heard anything like it before nor have since".

Mr. R.J. "I was taking a breath of air in the garden when a hooting which appeared to grow in intensity and seeming to come from the civil hospital of Jumet, took my attention. I wasn't frightened but very impressed when it passed over my head. A few seconds later the noise dampened down in the direction of Hamende".

12. Jumet A Jumet taximan, Mr. L.G., was parked on the corner of Paul Pastur road near to Charleroi. At around 00.30 hrs. while listening to his car's radio (stereo 2x10 watts), a progressive modulated noise invaded the radio for a few seconds. Surprised, the witness got out of his vehicle to find that a little distance away a police van was immobilised with the gendarmes staring up into the sky, as well as a group of children and riverside residents of the same commune. At that moment, the witness interrupted his observation to do an errand. The next day his father told him he had also heard the noise.

13. Jumet We stay at Jumet where Mr. Roger Boulu, who was still up, suddenly heard a din which he compared to an American police car's siren, but much quicker and louder, approaching. He then saw his next door neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cherbat, running towards his house dressed only in their pyjamas with a coat thrown over their shoulders. Mrs. Boulu said that their neighbours arrived yelling like mad "There's a flying saucer!" Apparently the poor fellow was shaving when suddenly his electric razor emitted sparks! (to compare with the No. 4 phenomenon) Mr. Cherbat decided to go off to explain the incident to the gendarmes, their van being stationed nearby.

As the noise became louder, Mr. Boulu saw that the sky was slowly turning a rose/green colour which he was unable to compare with any shade he knew. This light appeared to move together with the noise towards Gilly. The light and noise stopped instantly. Unfortunately, although we tried to obtain fuller details from Mr. J.C., this gentleman continued to refuse to give any statements which could have helped us further.

Albeit the phenomena travelled into the dense demographic zones of Charleroi, it is rather paradoxical to say that, strangely enough, all corroboration stops! It reappeared nonetheless at Marcinelle, where the observations are extremely important since the UFO(s) are much nearer and better observed.

14. Marcinelle Returning to his home around 00.30 hrs., Mr. Jean-Claude Labenne, a student, lives in an apartment situated in one of the buildings of the "Vilette Park". All his family were asleep. He was just going through the living room which was in total darkness since Jean-Claude had not switched on the light, when his attention was caught by something outside the living room window. Looking out, he saw a dark mass which was clearly defined in front of the top of a row of poplar trees that were located about 50 metres away. A very slight high-pitched whistle was heard. And so, the witness being intrigued, he decided to go towards the bay window looking north east (azimuth 65°) and observe fuller.

The object was described as being roughly 25 cm. at arm's length, and was stationary, more or less horizontally, at an altitude of about 25 metres from the ground. Its form was elongated, rather narrow, with the top part appearing to be convex on the extremities, and the bottom straight or only slightly concave. On the upper part, in the middle, there was a protuberance which could have been a dome, a little wider than it was high, and of a diameter equivalent to about one fifth of its total length.

The witness was not able to be precise, but he recalled seeing under the left side of the base a small rectangular appendage. There was no separation between the dome and the engine's body. The object was described as being solid in appearance and dull grey, but the young man was unable to give an impression of a three dimensional view. He observed it for roughly 20 seconds when the whistling suddenly stopped. Following this, the object started to slowly move off to the right, giving the impression that it was gliding. It passed in front of a row of trees and came a little closer to the southern building (which led him to believe that its horizontal trajectory was slightly curved or oblique). The object did not change its way of moving during the ten seconds or so it was being observed, and during which it travelled some 100 metres (a speed of 36 kph). It was at that moment during its journey that it was blocked out by a corner of the window. Without hesitating, the young fellow went out onto the balcony, but the object had already disappeared. Lingering there for a further one or two minutes, Jean-Claude realised there was nothing else to be seen and so he decided to go to bed.

Even though he was unable to determine the object's third dimension, there are strong chances that it was circular, since no modification was seen during its evolutions. The witness remains very prudent in his estimation of the real dimensions; if one admits an apparent size of 25 cm., the real dimension should be a minimum of 25 metres, established from certain landmarks and a maximum distance of 50 m. between the building and the row of poplars. We believe that in actual fact the object was a distance of less than 50 m., and by consequence, smaller, owing to the parallax error caused by the measure from landmarks situated behind it.

Jean-Claude Labenne, like Sergeant-Major Raczyński, was filmed and interviewed by Radio and Television Belge on the occasion of a TV program entitled "Serieux ou pas?" ("Serious or not?"), during which Prof. Meessen as well as Messrs. Poher and Guerin appeared.

15. Marcinelle We now progress to another important observation, and it is one made by Mr. Eric Meni (16 years old) and his mother, who live in the second building of the urban complex of Vilette. While asleep, young Eric Meni was awakened by a whistling he compared to those kind of rockets one tends to see in science fiction films (sic). The noise was modulated and high-pitched, and of a much quicker frequency than an ambulance siren. The noise was so strong that Eric thought it was only a few metres from his bedroom window. He also noticed that a light, soft grey-white glimmer was irradiating into his bedroom. For a moment or so the young boy remained in his bed without moving, then he sat up and tried to see what was going on. Nonetheless, from where he was, he couldn't make anything out.

After listening for about a minute to the hooting noise, he plucked up enough courage to peep out the window. It was then that he saw the object. The poor lad was so frightened that he yelled for his mother to come and see.

(continued)

ALERT IN THE BLACK COUNTRY (continued)

Thinking that her son was sick, she arose from her bed and went quickly into his room. There she found the boy standing up by the window with his hands firmly gripping the radiator. The poor fellow was trembling with fright. Eric explained to her what he had seen and heard and she explained that she, too, had heard a whistling. While alone in her bedroom, her husband being away, she became aware of a whistling that was becoming more and more high-pitched. She thought at first it was just some type of vehicle fixed with a new-fangled sound gadget. Even though this sound was very near, she was unable to localise it, and during the minute or so she listened to it, it was then that she heard Eric calling for her.

Of course, on arriving in her son's room, the noise stopped, and upon looking outside she could see nothing abnormal. Eric nonetheless had had a good look at the object, and described it thus: The object was stationary in front of him towards the east (azimuth 80 or 85°), at roughly some 30 metres from the building, and a little higher than the place Eric was watching from (20 to 25 metres high). It was hovering just above a group of trees, and was composed of an elliptical "plate" surmounted by an equally elliptic dome. The object's position tended to be slightly inclined so that Eric could not distinguish the underneath. The boy estimated its size to be some 5 metres in length and a height of 3 metres. Of a greyish colouring, the plate seemed to be about 40 cm. thick and had approx. 10 to 15 yellow-green and red lights regularly spaced around it. They gave the impression of being more built-in than fixed on. These lights were not blinding but stayed fixed without sending out rays.

As for the dome, this was clearly separated from the object's body, yet was of the same unit. It measured nearly 2.5 metres high as wide, and was divided into two parts by a vertical partition. The left side was a clear, luminous yellow and was lighted up from inside the dome itself, and the right side appeared dull in the same colour as the body, with some light reflections coming from it. Still watching the UFO, the dome started to turn on itself, but Eric couldn't say in which direction..

Then, with fantastic speed, the object suddenly shot upwards at an angle of 60 to 80 degrees; in less than two seconds it had disappeared. The young lad could not say in which direction it went since it departed too rapidly. One thing he did remember was that the window vibrated just like when a plane breaks the sound barrier. His mother then rushed into his room.

After staying with her son for about 4 to 5 minutes, she then returned to her bed. The time was now 00.35 hrs. A few minutes later the whistling noise restarted and rapidly became high-pitched. Two minutes (or thereabouts) passed by before Mrs. Meni decided to get up to look out of the window, but when she did, she didn't see anything. Thinking that Eric would be frightened again, she thought she would take a little peep in his room. He also had heard the noise which was now very distinct and seemed to be perpendicular to the building. His mother then returned to bed, but since the noise continued, once more entered her son's room. At that instant the noise stopped dead, giving way to a white light which progressively formed until the whole room was violently lit up. Then it diminished to finally disappear. She said the light gave her the impression of approaching and then going away. Thirty seconds later the light episode repeated itself, then the two persons were left in peace for the rest of the night.

Two other interesting observations come also from the residential complex:

Having gone to sleep between 22.30 and 23.00 hrs., Mrs. Marchand (20 years old and a hairdresser) was soundly sleeping when she was awakened by a strange sound. She felt at the very same time a headache and a strong impression of heat. Frightened, she closed her eyes very tightly for a few seconds. This discomfort was not due only to the noise, but also to a strange sensation "as if some stranger was in my room".

To the young lady the noise was very distinct and strong, but not deafening. She compared it to an American police car's siren. It was modulated, and the witness thought that the emitter, very near to her building, was rotating. When she opened her eyes, a very pale light lighted up the window, but was shut off by the curtains. Some ten seconds later the luminosity slowly disappeared. The length of the hearing was roughly 20 seconds.

Mrs. Le Roux, 70 years old and a pensioner, heard the above-described din also, and felt like "an electric current" that gave her pins and needles all over her body which greatly discomforted her. Lying in bed, she was unable to get up since she felt peculiar. This lady has lived in the United States and knows very well the American police car's siren. She is insistent on the fact that this noise was different; it was much stronger and more harmonious. Its modulation was much more rapid.

This report closes the series of observations made in the Vilette Buildings. The abundance of witnesses in this zone is not really amazing since the density of inhabitants in these buildings is impressive: there are over 900 persons. The reports (in that structure) are confirmed by Mr. and Mrs. Boucnez who live in the vicinity. And lastly, one of our investigators, Mr. Yves Toussaint, living at Mercinelle, was likewise awakened by this characteristic clamour for some 12 seconds or so. The time was then exactly 00.28 hrs. Following this, the phenomenon went towards Loverval, in the Couillet territory, where five other earwitnesses add themselves to this never-ending but astounding list. They are Messrs. Michel and Ferdinand Scieur, Mrs. Ravasio and S.I. and also Mr. G.L.

16. Loverval Upon entering her bedroom, Miss Janine Lamy (a teacher) heard a din resembling that of an American police car's siren. The sound, accompanied by whistling, was very quick and strong, provoking distinct reverberations throughout the whole house. She believed it was situated at 150° azimuth. The din continued for about 15 seconds and was followed by a moment's silence (5 to 6 seconds); then the din restarted, but in another direction (140° azimuth). Intrigued, Miss Lamy went to the window, and while looking, saw about 20 metres or so away from her home at some 400 elevation, an apparently solid-looking object that appeared to turn anticlockwise on itself. The noise was just as distinct with the basis of the object stable.

She was convinced of the UFO's materiality, describing it as "having an elliptical form, flatter than larger in a respect of one to three, appeared to be made of an opaque dull but slightly glazed material (sic). She was just able to make out an elliptical dome that occupied the central superior part; there were two red and green lights around the object's circumference. The evaluated dimensions by the young lady at arm's length were a length of 8 cm.; thickness 2 to 3 cm. She was not able to give any other details, but presumed her observation to have lasted for 20 seconds; ending by the UFO quickly moving off in an ascending movement, to completely disappear one or two seconds later. Her mother, too, heard the sound, whereas her brother, who was at the time in a kitchen/cellar, heard it too, and was literally scared to death.

17. Couillet The above-mentioned sighting was confirmed by Mr. and Mrs. Dussart, living at Couillet. They, too, had heard the noise that resembled a "grass-hopper's screech". Their opinion of the sound's direction coincided perfectly with the axes of Miss Lamy's home. According to these people, there was apparently a photograph taken at Loverval on that night. This document only gives one half of the object (the luminous side), such as was observed by young Eric Meni. But even with all our efforts we were unable to find out who took it. The last set of observations in this very long series come from Loverval. These three persons in question, Messrs. F. Pierard, Flament and Liesinski, all heard the same kind of noise. One of them, Mr. Pierard, saw a white glimmer zig-zagging across the night sky.

(continued)

ALERT IN THE BLACK COUNTRY (continued)Complementary Details

As seen through this investigation, quite a number of witnesses complained of strange effects that accompanied the phenomenon (undue fright, paralysis, electric shocks); several reports show a strong localisation of the manifestation itself. In some cases, all that was needed was a simple window, so that the sound, heard by the witnesses outside, was not heard at all inside! Paradoxically enough, the animals never reacted to the incident. Only one case can be mentioned where a young cocker spaniel howled the place down. And it is on one of these occasions that geese, well known for cackling at the slightest noise, didn't even bat an eyelid.

There were no real after effects. All that was reported from certain witnesses was a feeling of being a little feverish the next day. We would like to say that all the people questioned by us appeared sincere and honest, although a bit hesitant to tell of their event. All these witnesses were not of acquaintance, but still a strong coherence comes forth from all the observations.

Conclusion and Development

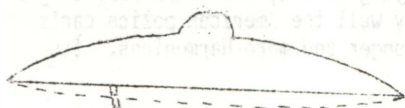
We can honestly say that, in view of what occurred around Charleroi during the end of the month of April, 1974, real UFO sightings were made. The number of witnesses, their dispersion, and the coherence in all their accounts are sufficient proof. Precise characteristics came forth during the night of 20th to 21st. April: it was a weekend, the weather was good and even owing to the lateness of the hour, quite a number of people were still up. Several were out or returning home, others finishing the evening in their living room, some were asleep or reading. Only one witness is awoken by the UFO, on the other hand, a certain number of people stayed asleep through the whole incident regardless of the small distance separating them from others - observing or hearing.

We think it is interesting to mention that our earth's technology uses an extremely sonar-localised wave-radio system, known to the general public from sea films. It's called ASDIC. The principle is very simple: a very deployed (sic) sound-wave is sent under the water. When the echo is reflected the operator reduces his diffusion field so as to detect, very precisely, where the submarine is located. Other systems only slightly or not at all sonar are used in aeronautics: RADAR or RADAR-DOPPLER. It could have been the same principle which was responsible for the noises, it could also explain some UFO observations where the UFO moves by following the ground level. These statements suggest an evolved technology which is in keeping with our own. Something which is quite unbelievable is the way all the animals remained quiet: it was not the same for the human beings who, in some cases, were scared to death. No less than 20 persons declared to have felt these impressions, sometimes accompanied by tremblings, heat sensations, paralysis and electric shocks.

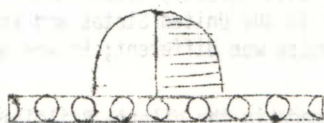
(Reprinted from "Inforespace", No. 21, July 1975, by courtesy of Societe Belge d'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux, Boulevard Aristide Briand, 26, 1070 - Bruxelles, Belgium, translated by Alice Ashton)

Editor's Note: This report is of special interest for two reasons. The outstanding feature emerging is of course the unusual sounds reported accompanying visual observations. The vast majority of world-wide UFO sightings could be summarised as having very subdued associated sound, if not completely noiseless. The siren-like noise characteristic reported in these cases, although not completely new, nevertheless appears to be rare.

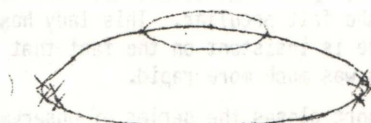
The April, 1975 issue of "Inforespace" contains a report on Belgian sightings for the month of April, 1974, numbering a total of 67. These came at the tail of a world-wide wave of sightings lasting roughly from October 1973 to May, 1974. In these 67 cases, in addition to the main concentration of 25 cases on the 21st, there was another outstanding "flap" night on the 14th, with 12 cases between 8 p.m. and midnight. It is of interest that these April Belgian events coincide closely with a "flap" in Australia at the same time, with the Australian incidents reaching a peak on the 14th and 15th. (See August, 1975 Bulletin) Maybe everybody was "seeing stars" at the same time - and some of the Australian cases we suspect are mistaken astronomical observations - but the coincidence is striking.



(Jean-Claude Labenne)



(Eric Meni)



(Janine Lamy)

Witnesses' sketches, reproduced from the report.

VUFORS COMMITTEE

Results of the election for VUFORS office-bearers held at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 14, 1976:

President:	Peter Norris
Vice-President:	Guy Richards
Secretary:	Ray Fischer
Treasurer:	Clive Yates
Committee members:	Mrs. A. Briggs
	Les Bristol
	Michael McNamara

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